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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Letter dated 6 December 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Buenos Aires Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, signed at Buenos Aires on 2 December 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 11, 21 and 22.

(Signed) Alfredo CHIARADIA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, signed at Buenos Aires on 2 December 1992

1. The Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group) met at Buenos Aires on 1 and 2 December 1992 to consider regional and international issues, events and situations.

2. In a climate of dialogue and reflection, the leaders examined a broad spectrum of political, economic and social issues which are of interest and concern to the region, and found that there is basic agreement on those issues and the proposals put forward for their solution.

3. They stressed that the Rio Group has consolidated its identity and its role as an actor on the international stage, which they agreed to strengthen.

4. They reiterated their commitment to representative democracy and the defence and full exercise of human rights.

5. They reiterated their staunch solidarity with the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, and the Government and the people of that country, and expressed their condemnation of the latest attempt to disrupt the constitutional order with violence. They underscored their unconditional support for Venezuelan democracy.

6. They recognized the positive nature of the elections held in Peru on 22 November, which is an important step towards the full restoration of representative democracy and respect for human rights.

7. Concerned at the continuing serious situation in Haiti, they reaffirmed their commitment to the speedy restoration of the constitutional Government and the full exercise of human rights in that country. They reiterated their support for pursuing the courses of action and important measures taken in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) and for United Nations cooperation.

8. With respect to the situation in Cuba, they reaffirmed the Declaration made by the Presidents and Heads of Government of the Rio Group in December 1991 at Cartagena.

9. They are following closely and fully support the efforts of the legitimately constituted Government of Suriname to consolidate the democratic order in that country.

10. They expressed their satisfaction at the decisive progress made in the process of peace, dialogue and reconciliation in Central America and pledged their efforts and political determination to support its full success.

11. They stressed the importance of dialogue among the parties for the peaceful settlement of the territorial disputes that exist in Latin America.

12. They reiterated the importance and implications of the convening and deliberations of the sixteenth extraordinary session of the General Assembly of OAS, to take place this month in Washington, D.C., and expressed their hopes for its success. In that regard, they emphasized the need to conduct in-depth studies for the revitalization of the inter-American system.

13. They underscored the decision and commitment of the Caribbean countries members of the Rio Group to strengthen the already close relationship between the two regions through initiatives, meetings and mechanisms that will consolidate such links. They welcomed the proposal of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to form an association of Caribbean States in order to expand the process of regional and subregional integration.

14. Concerned at the need to maintain the region as a zone of peace and non-proliferation and to keep it free of nuclear weapons, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the important progress achieved in that sphere in 1992 and expressed satisfaction that the Treaty of Tlatelolco will soon be applicable throughout the area covered by the Treaty.

15. They acknowledged the undeniable progress being made in Latin America and the Caribbean towards achieving stable, sustained and equitable economic growth. They underscored the successful implementation of market-economy programmes with a social content that are being developed in the region to ensure its efficient integration into the world economy.

16. Likewise, they expressed their resolve to continue strengthening political, economic and social programmes designed to create favourable conditions for the full incorporation of vulnerable population groups into the development process and to eliminate structural imbalances, in particular the conditions of poverty and marginalization that still affect the countries of the Rio Group. To that end, they will promote dynamic, modern and sound institutional and administrative transformations that will contribute to the consolidation and improvement of an efficient, participatory democracy.

17. They expressed their satisfaction at the progress made in regional integration through the strengthening of subregional and bilateral efforts and agreed that this is a fundamental factor for creating an expanded economic area in Latin America and the Caribbean.

18. They expressed their satisfaction at the conclusion of the governmental negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States of America and Mexico and hope that it will soon be approved, since it opens up possibilities for free trade and development throughout the hemisphere. They urge the various multilateral bodies for Latin American integration and those dealing with free-trade agreements at the national and regional levels to submit, before the next summit of Presidents of the Rio Group, a programme that includes a proposal for harmonizing the different processes of

integration in the area of trade that ultimately lead to a single free-trade zone for the Americas.

19. They attributed great importance to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, which appears imminent. They noted that its outcome must be the result of clearly multilateral negotiations which establish a free, stable, transparent and non-discriminatory international trading system in which exports enjoy equitable access to consumer markets. They stressed the importance of commodity exports for their economies and the need for such exports, in the final agreement of the Round, not to be affected by unfair competition from developed economies nor to be subjected to arbitrary trade restrictions. They drew attention to the dangers of the protectionist measures introduced by some countries or regional blocs against some of their exports. A trade war would have very serious consequences and would jeopardize the development process attained as a result of all the economic adjustment policies implemented in the region. They expressed the hope that the current negotiations on commodities of fundamental importance for Latin America and the Caribbean will produce agreements that satisfy both producers and consumers.

20. Welcoming the dialogue, fruitful work and cooperation between the Rio Group and the European Community, they reiterated their full support for the meetings and institutionalized mechanisms established by the Rome Declaration. They expressed great appreciation for the progress made in the meeting on trade between the two regions, held at Brussels in October 1992, and stated the need to maintain that dialogue. They stressed the importance of the opening of the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the funding of projects in the region. They instructed their Ministers for Foreign Affairs to explore all possible avenues for expanding political, economic, social and cultural ties between the two regions in order to increase reciprocal trade and the flow of investments. They also decided to promote talks and closer ties with all regions.

21. They expressed their concern at attempts to extend the jurisdiction of any country beyond its territory, since such attempts are inherently incompatible with international law and violate the sovereignty of members of the international community.

22. They stated their support for the preparation and convening of a World Summit for Social Development in 1995, which should contribute to economic development with equity. To this end, they agreed to set up a special working group to prepare a document on the issues of poverty, unemployment and marginalization for consideration by the Heads of State and Government at the next meeting of the Rio Group.

23. They underscored the importance and implications of the forthcoming Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government to be held at Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, in 1993.

24. They stressed the importance of the work and initiatives of the Latin American Parliament and expressed particular interest at its proposal for a

Latin American community of nations. They decided to instruct their Ministers for Foreign Affairs to make a joint assessment of that initiative during 1993.

25. They reaffirmed the high priority and importance of the initiative for a "common market of knowledge" and decided to support action for implementing it and the main thrust of the conclusions adopted at the meeting of universities and research centres held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in November 1992. They entrusted their Ministers of Education with pursuing the study of this initiative and taking action to support it.

26. They recognized that in order to promote and achieve regional integration, it is necessary to take account of cultural diversity while removing language barriers. In this connection, they supported the proposal to create a Latin American centre at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica, for the purpose of enhancing mutual knowledge and understanding among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and promoting greater cultural interaction among them.

27. They paid particular attention to the serious consequences of the production, trafficking and illicit consumption of narcotic drugs and reiterated their concern at the increase in world demand for psychotropic substances and its effects on social and political structures and human health. In a context of shared responsibility and the search for comprehensive solutions, principally alternative development, they underscored the need for enhanced multilateral efforts in order to expand cooperation among States, and supported the initiative to promote a world summit meeting to analyse the various aspects of the problem of drug trafficking.

28. They reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, particularly the need to ensure sustainable development, and made a political commitment to continue promoting the effective implementation by all countries, particularly the developed countries, of the agreements and decisions reached by the Conference with respect to financial and technology transfer commitments. They also stressed the importance of convening an international conference on high-seas fishing.

29. They expressed satisfaction at the financial and institutional support provided by the Inter-American Development Bank for the launching of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and agreed on the need for member countries to try to allocate resources under their respective national budgets to guarantee the functioning of that Fund.

30. They vigorously condemned manifestations of racism and xenophobia and expressed their deep concern at the violent resurgence of old ethnic and religious conflicts in several parts of the world.

31. They agreed to hold the seventh Presidential Summit of the Rio Group in Chile on 15 and 16 October 1993.

32. The Heads of State and Government expressed their sincere thanks to President Carlos S. Menem for the warm hospitality extended by the people and Government of Argentina during the sixth Presidential Summit of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group).